

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

CLIVE BARKER



THE THIEF OF ALWAYS

BOOK TWO

CLIVE BARKER'S
THE THIEF OF ALWAYS™





Clive Barker's
The Thief of Always

Adaptation by
Kris Oprisko

Illustrated by
Gabriel Hernandez,
Sulaco Studios

Lettered by
Tom B. Long

Design by
Cindy Chapman

Edited by
Chris Ryall



www.idwpublishing.com

ISBN: 1-932382-75-5

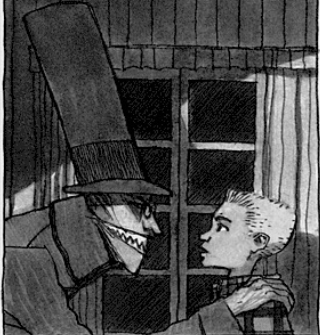
08 07 06 05 1 2 3 4 5

Ted Adams, Publisher
Chris Ryall, Editor-in-Chief
Robbie Robbins, Design Director
Kris Oprisko, Vice President
Alex Garner, Creative Director
Cindy Chapman, Operations Manager
Tom B. Long, Designer
Chance Boren, Editorial Assistant
Aaron Myers, Editorial Assistant
Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
Rick Privman, Business Development

CLIVE BARKER'S THE THIEF OF ALWAYS #2, March 2005, FIRST PRINTING, IDW Publishing, a division of Idea + Design Works, LLC. Editorial Offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. The Thief of Always © 1992 by Clive Barker. Adaptation © 2005 Idea + Design Works, LLC. All rights reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea + Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea.

All Harroey Swiich wanted was to escape... from the drudgery of his home-school-home routine, from the great gray beast February, from the ordinary.

When the strange being known as Rictus arrived with promises of adventure and fun, Harroey could not resist accompanying him to a hidden destination...



...Holiday House, a magical place where four seasons roll by in a single day, where children are free to spend their time doing exactly what they wish.

But, of late, Harroey has begun to detect a darkness at the edges of the happy scene. Despite its untempered, Holiday House is a haunted place. As his friend Lula becomes more distant, Harroey's unease deepens. Perhaps the time has come to leave Holiday House...

...if he can.

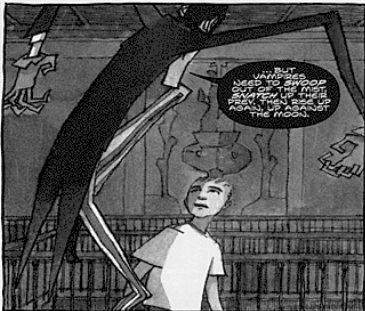




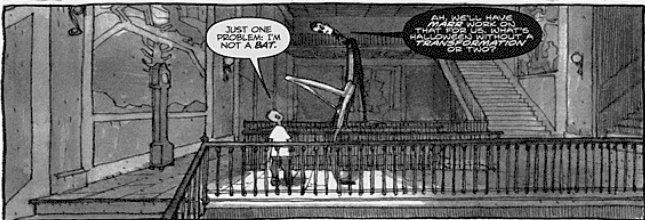


A VAMPIRE!
I FOUND THIS
GREAT MASK—

MASKS
ARE A GREAT
BEGINNING...



BUT
VAMPIRES
NEED TO SNOOD
OUT OF THE MIST.
SWITCH UP THE
SCENE, UP AGAINST
THE MOON.



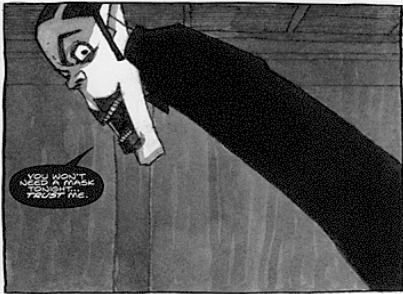
JUST ONE
PROBLEM: I'M
NOT A BAT.

AM, WE'LL HAVE
HARD WORK ON
THAT. FOR US, WHAT'S
HALLOWEEN WITHOUT A
TRANSFORMATION
OR TWO?



NOW
SO, NOW
AND TELL
ME: HOW DO YOU
MEET UP ON THE
ROOF AND FIND
HARD, WE'LL
MEET UP
THERE.

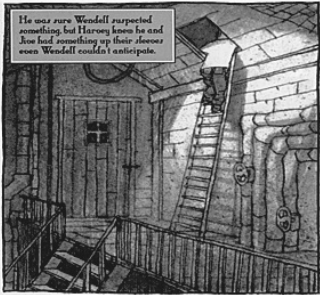
BUT I
HAVE TO GET
MY MASK!

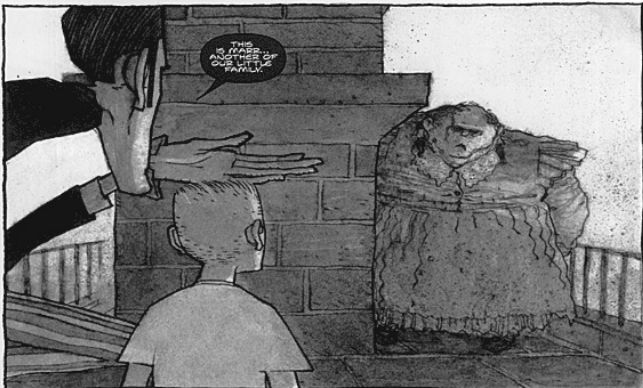


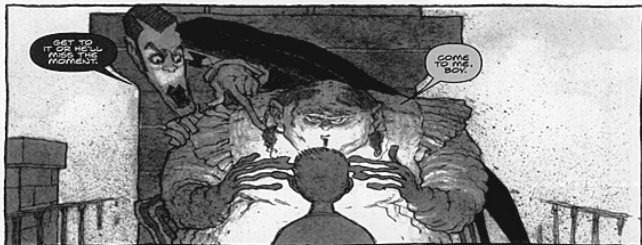
YOU WON'T
NEED A MASK
TODAY.
TRUST ME.

It took Harcey only a minute or two to tell Wendell to go on ahead.

He was sure Wendell suspected something, but Harcey knew he and Joe had something up their sleeves even Wendell couldn't anticipate.











SCREEEE

HUH?!

PLEASE,
PLEASE, I
BEG YOU—
DON'T KILL
ME!



RRRRRRRR

YOU DON'T WANT ME, BUT THERE'S ANOTHER KID AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE—TAKE HARVEY!



LISTEN TO THE SOLDIER! HE'S GOT YOU DEAD, YOUNG HARVEY.



I'M TOO FAT TO EAT—TAKE HARVEY! IT'S HARVEY YOU WANT!



BITES HIM, GO ON FORK A LITTLE OF HIS BLOOD, THE BLOOD'S NOT THE SUGAR'S PASTRY.

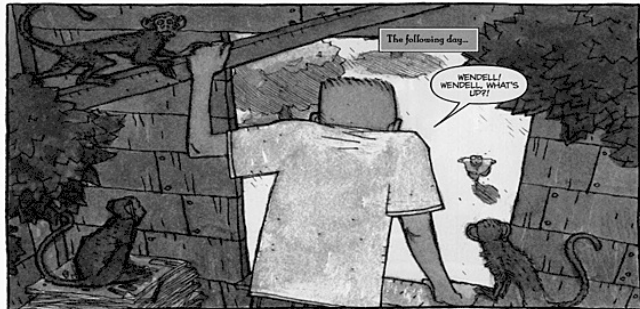


WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? THIS ISN'T A GAME—IT'S AN EDUCATION.

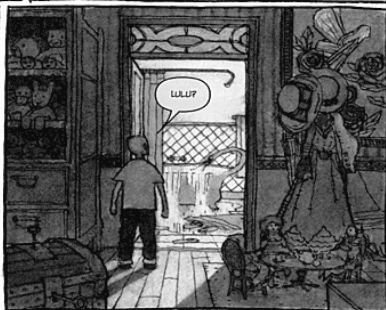
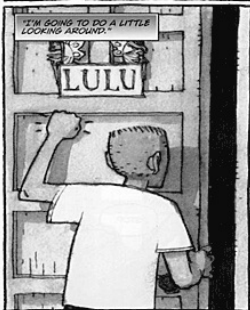
GRRAAR













ANYWAY, I DON'T BELIEVE MR. HOOD EXISTS. I'VE BEEN HERE DAYS AND DAYS AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ONCE.



PLEASE, CHILD, BE CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU KNOW!

YOU'RE HERE TO ENJOY YOURSELF FOR A LITTLE TIME... AND IT **FLIES** BY!

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO STAY HERE FOREVER... OR AM I?



STOP.



WHAT IS THIS PLACE, MRS. GUFFIN? IS IT SOME KIND OF PRISON? WE'RE LOCKED UP HERE, AREN'T WE?



YES, ME, TOO. AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT...

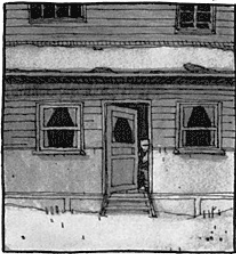
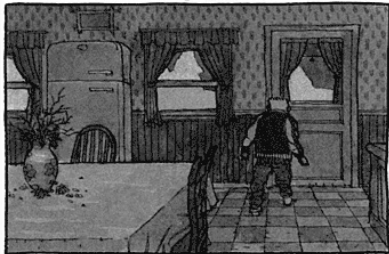
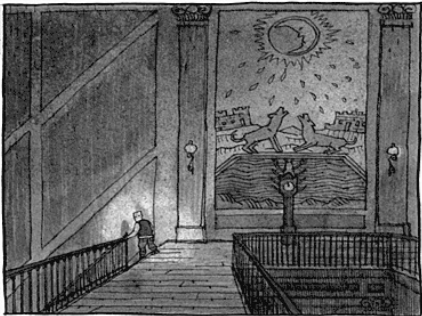
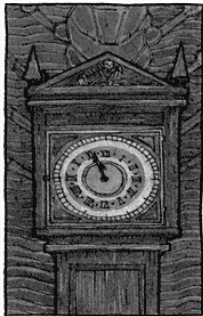




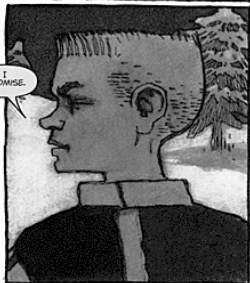


The rest of the day passed for the two of them like the performance of a strange play, heading out to play trick-or-treat with a show of loud laughter...



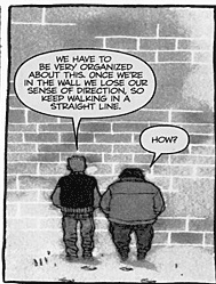














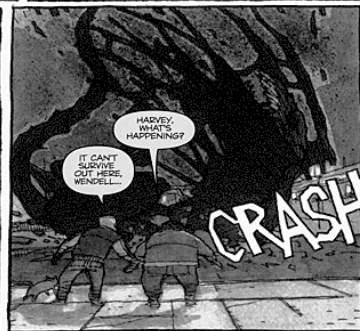
JUST KEEP
WALKING. ANY
SIGN OF...







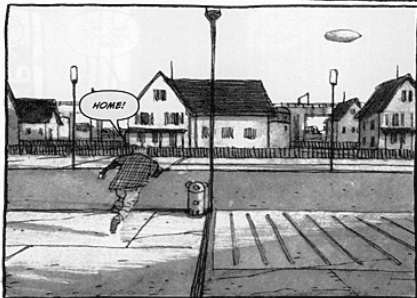


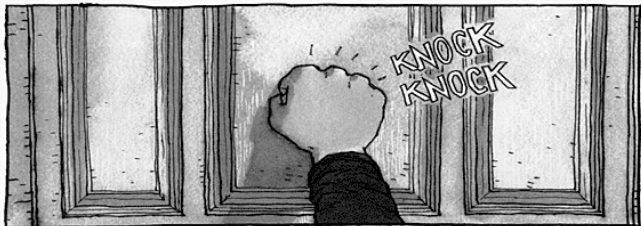




IT'S
DYING!







WHO IS IT?

IT'S ME!

WHO'S 'ME'?



WHAT DO YOU WANT? ARE YOU ONE OF THE SMITH KIDS?

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO WAKE YOU UP.



COME AWAY FROM THE DOOR, DEAR I...



MOM?!





And so the newly reunited family
gathers in the kitchen as Harvey
recounts his incredible tale...

...SO EVERY
DAY I SPENT
THERE. A YEAR
PASSED OUT HERE
IN THE REAL
WORLD.

...AND THE
PHONE CALLS
I MADE TO YOU
WERE JUST
TRICKS.

BUT WHO WAS
PLAYING ALL THOSE
TRICKS? THERE HAS
TO BE SOME SANE
EXPLANATION.

THERE
IS... IT WAS
MAGIC.

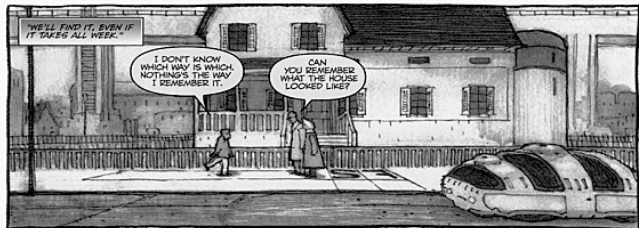
MILLSAP

COULD
YOU FIND
THIS HOUSE
AGAIN?

YES,
I THINK
SO.

WE HAVE
TO KNOW IT
EXISTS BEFORE
WE REPORT IT TO
THE POLICE. YOU
UNDERSTAND?

IT SOUNDS
LIKE SOMETHING
I MADE UP. I KNOW.
BUT I SWEAR
IT'S NOT.









THE WHOLE HOUSE IS A BOX OF TRICKS. THE SEASONS, THE PRESENTS—THEY'RE ALL ILLUSIONS. WE HAVE TO HOLD ON TO THAT.

BUT IT ALL SEEMED SO REAL. HOW COULD...

I'M NOT SURE. ALL I KNOW IS, HE TOOK THOSE YEARS FROM US TO FEED HIMSELF... LIKE A VAMPIRE.



VAMPIRE? SO SHOULDN'T WE HAVE A STAKE, OR HOLY WATER, OR SOMETHING?

THAT'S JUST IN STORIES.

BUT IF HE COMES AFTER US...

WE FIGHT. FIGHT AS IF OUR VERY LIVES DEPEND ON IT. BECAUSE THEY DO. WENDELL... THEY DO.



To be concluded...

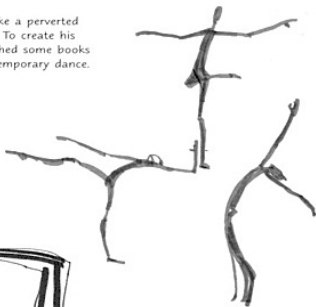
Character Sketches and Comments by **Gabriel Hernandez**

To create characters is sort of like casting a movie. The difference is, in a movie, you can cast any actor, but here, some characters are not even human and need to be created from just your imagination. Rictus and Mrs. Griffin, for example, are like puppets. Just their heads and hands have volume.





I imagined Jive like a perverted
music hall actor. To create his
movements, I searched some books
of classic and contemporary dance.





The most difficult thing about drawing Marr was to draw a slug with personality. About the Vampire Harvey, I decided to disfigure him a lot, so Wendell would be unable to recognize him.





Carna was the most difficult character to create. It passed from being a Tyrannosaur-like creature to a mixture of horse, dog and a fighting bull.

Star Light, Star Bright, Get Me Home Tonight...

CLIVE BARKER'S
THE THIEF OF ALWAYS™
BOOK THREE

The 48-page, full-color tale of
magic and mystery concludes in

MAY 2005



www.idwpublishing.com

The Thief of Always © 1992 by Clive Barker. Adaptation © 2005 Idea • Design Works, LLC.
All rights reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.



CLIVE BARKER'S THE THIEF OF ALWAYS™



Young Harvey Swick is bored with life and looking for excitement. He finds it in the form of Mr. Hood's Holiday House, a place that has stood for a thousand years, welcoming countless children into its embrace. It's a place of miracles, a blissful round of treats and seasons, where every childhood whim may be satisfied... for a price, as Harvey comes to learn.

The Thief of Always marked Master of Horror Clive Barker's first venture in writing an all-ages tale, and now his classic novel finds new life in this lavishly illustrated adaptation, courtesy of writer Kris Oprisko and artist Gabriel Hernandez.



www.idwpublishing.com • \$7.49

